

Central Intelligence Agency

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Washington, D.C. 20505

OLL 84-2289/3

20 JUL 1984

The Honorable Michael D. Barnes
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Western Hemisphere Affairs
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I regret any misunderstanding that may have developed between the Agency and the General Accounting Office (GAO) over GAO's request for information of the military supply relationship between the United States and Guatemala. My Office of Legislative Liaison responded to GAO's request in a phone call to Mr. Frank Degnan of GAO on 20 June 1984. We explained to Mr. Degnan that it is not within the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) purview to discuss United States policy toward Guatemala. We believe the Department of Defense has the detailed information GAO is seeking on Guatemalan arms sources.

We also indicated to Mr. Degnan that the CIA has briefed you and other Members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee in recent months on the overall situation in Central America. However, if you or GAO would like an update on Guatemala, including a threat analysis or its military capabilities, we would be most happy to provide such a briefing at your convenience.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey
William J. Casey

Director of Central Intelligence

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Remarks

Recommendation, please, to DCI.

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Washington, D.C. 20515

Executive Registry

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June 29, 1984

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84-2289/2

Mr. William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

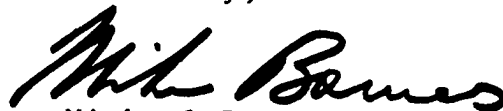
Dear Mr. Casey:

The General Accounting Office is currently engaged in a review of the military supply relationship between the United States and Guatemala. This review was initiated as a result of preliminary evidence that indicated supplies were being provided to Guatemala despite an embargo on military assistance and equipment. The GAO has informed me that your agency has refused to assist in this review. Specifically, it is my understanding that representatives of the CIA declined on the basis that I had been fully briefed on this issue.

While I have appreciated the regular cooperation of the CIA, I am unaware of the briefing in question. In this case, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs, I have requested the GAO to study U.S. assistance efforts and prepare a full report. I consider CIA cooperation to be vital and necessary to the oversight efforts of the Subcommittee. I would appreciate your full cooperation with the GAO.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Barnes
Chairman
Subcommittee on Western
Hemisphere Affairs

MDB/rk